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PTO/SB/05 (11-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0032
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**UTILITY
PATENT APPLICATION
TRANSMITTAL**

(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Attorney Docket No.

First Inventor

Notes

Title

Apparatus for Applying Multi-
Component Liquid Liner . . .

Express Mail Label No.

EG942688571US

APPLICATION ELEMENTS

See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.

1. ☒ Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)
(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)
2. ☒ Applicant claims small entity status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.
3. ☒ Specification [Total Pages **20**]
(preferred arrangement set forth below)
- Descriptive title of the invention
 - Cross Reference to Related Applications
 - Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R & D
 - Reference to sequence listing, a table, or a computer program listing appendix
 - Background of the Invention
 - Brief Summary of the invention
 - Brief Description of the Drawings (if filed)
 - Detailed Description
 - Claim(s)
 - Abstract of the Disclosure
4. ☒ Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets **3**]
5. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages **1**]
- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy)
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63 (d))
(for continuation/divisional with Box 18 completed)
- i. ☐ **DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)**
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 CFR 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
6. ☐ Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76

ADDRESS TO:Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Patent Application
Washington, DC 20231

7. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R in duplicate, large table or Computer Program (Appendix)
8. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission (if applicable, all necessary)
- a. ☐ Computer Readable Form (CRF)
- b. Specification Sequence Listing on:
- i. ☐ CD-ROM or CD-R (2 copies); or
 - ii. ☐ paper
- c. ☐ Statements verifying identity of above copies

ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS

9. ☒ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & document(s))
10. ☒ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee) ☒ Power of Attorney
11. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
12. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
13. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
14. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503) (Should be specifically itemized)
15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) (if foreign priority is claimed)
16. ☐ Request and Certification under 35 U.S.C. 122 (b)(2)(B)(i). Applicant must attach form PTO/SB/35 or its equivalent. **check (\$395)**
17. ☒ Other:

18. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment, or in an Application Data Sheet under 37 CFR 1.76:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP)

of prior application No.: _____/_____

Prior application information:

Examiner _____

Group Art Unit: _____

For CONTINUATION OR DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 5b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

19. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS☐ Customer Number or Bar Code Label

(Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here)

or ☒

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43,778

Signature



Date

11/28/00

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JC970 U.S. PTOJC912 U.S. PTO
09/724070
11/28/00

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2001

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)

Complete if Known

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Notes

Examiner Name

Group Art Unit

Attorney Docket No.

METHOD OF PAYMENT

1. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number

01-1945

Deposit Account Name

Andrews & Kurth L.L.P.

- ☒ Charge Any Additional Fee Required Under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17

- ☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

2. ☒ Payment Enclosed:

- ☒ Check ☐ Credit card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other

FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code Fee Code Fee Description

101 710 201 355 Utility filing fee

106 320 206 160 Design filing fee

107 490 207 245 Plant filing fee

108 710 208 355 Reissue filing fee

114 150 214 75 Provisional filing fee

Fee Paid

355

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$ 355)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES

Total Claims 20 -20** = 0 X Fee from below = Fee Paid
Independent Claims 3 -3** = 0 X
Multiple Dependent

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code Fee Code Fee Description

103 18 203 9 Claims in excess of 20

102 80 202 40 Independent claims in excess of 3

104 270 204 135 Multiple dependent claim, if not paid

109 80 209 40 ** Reissue independent claims over original patent

110 18 210 9 ** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$ 0)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity Small Entity

Fee Code Fee Code Fee Code Fee Code Fee Description

105 130 205 65 Surcharge - late filing fee or oath

127 50 227 25 Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet

139 130 139 130 Non-English specification

147 2,520 147 2,520 For filing a request for ex parte reexamination

112 920* 112 920* Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action

113 1,840* 113 1,840* Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action

115 110 215 55 Extension for reply within first month

116 390 216 195 Extension for reply within second month

117 890 217 445 Extension for reply within third month

118 1,390 218 695 Extension for reply within fourth month

128 1,890 228 945 Extension for reply within fifth month

119 310 219 155 Notice of Appeal

120 310 220 155 Filing a brief in support of an appeal

121 270 221 135 Request for oral hearing

138 1,510 138 1,510 Petition to institute a public use proceeding

140 110 240 55 Petition to revive - unavoidable

141 1,240 241 620 Petition to revive - unintentional

142 1,240 242 620 Utility issue fee (or reissue)

143 440 243 220 Design issue fee

144 600 244 300 Plant issue fee

122 130 122 130 Petitions to the Commissioner

123 50 123 50 Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)

126 180 126 180 Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt

581 40 581 40 Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)

146 710 246 355 Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))

149 710 249 355 For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))

179 710 279 355 Request for Continued Examination (RCE)

169 900 169 900 Request for expedited examination of a design application

Other fee (specify)

Fee Description

Fee Paid

JC912 U.S. PTO
09/724070
11/28/00

SUBMITTED BY

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11/28/00

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U.S. LETTERS PATENT APPLICATION

ENTITLED:

**APPARATUS FOR APPLYING MULTI-COMPONENT LIQUID LINER
COMPOSITIONS TO THE INNER SURFACES OF CONDUITS AND METHODS OF
APPLYING SAME**

By

JERRY W. NOLES, JR.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. 1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on
11-28-00, 2000, with the U. S. Postal Service, "Express
Mail" service, as Express Mail No. EC9426857145 in an envelope
addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box PATENT
APPLICATION, Washington, D.C. 20231.

11-28-00
Date

Alvin B. G. /
Signature

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field Of The Invention

This invention relates to an apparatus, or system, for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit, and in particular, well bore tubing, while the conduit remains in place. The invention also relates to methods for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of conduits.

2. Description Of Related Art

During the past several years, the oil and gas industry has been challenged to find new ways for improving operating efficiencies while meeting the ever increasing demand for oil and gas. With overall production output dropping below consumption levels, it has become increasingly important for producers to maximize their current production. This requires that they minimize any downtime when a well must be pulled out of service for workover operations.

One of the most costly workover operations is the pulling and replacement of the production tubulars, i.e., well bore tubing ("tubing") or casing. These conduits are a primary means for pressure containment and oil and gas transfer during production. If the production tubulars fail, a loss of well control may result with the further possibility of an uncontrolled release of gas and oil from the well.

Many of the wells that are currently producing have developed wall thickness reductions in the well bore tubing that may eventually lead to a leak or failure. Wall thickness reductions usually occur due to corrosion and erosion over a period of time. Corrosion occurs when fluids, such as salt water or other corrosive fluids, are produced during normal oil and gas production. Certain fluids and gases chemically attack the metal of the well bore tubing causing general loss of wall thickness and localized pitting of the well bore tubing until the wall is eventually breached. Erosion causes wall thickness losses due to the physical contact and the gouging action of abrasive particles, such as sand, carried by the produced fluids.

One way to prevent corrosion and reduce erosion is to install tubing that has an internal protective coating. These coatings can reduce wall loss, greatly extending the life of the tubing and

reducing the need for workover operations. However, internally coated tubing is very expensive and requires that the existing tubing be pulled and new tubing installed.

In another approach, a continuous length of solid lining material, e.g., plastic or polyethylene pipe, is inserted into the tubing of the well. The solid lining material is pulled into the conduit or inserted through an outside-diameter-reduction unit and held in tension with weight or other means until the solid lining material is sufficiently deformed to permit installation of the solid lining material into the conduit. The solid lining material is then positioned at, e.g., lowered to, the desired location in the conduit, e.g., at a zone located at a specific depth, e.g., 1,000 feet. The tension is then released and the solid lining material is allowed to relax and expand, or lay loosely, against the inner surface of the conduit.

This lining method has many disadvantages. For example, it requires expensive equipment that is not always available. Additionally, in some instances, sections of the plastic liner must be removed from inside of the conduit to allow valves and other assemblies in the conduit to function correctly. Moreover, this method is time consuming and problematic to perform due to varying dimensions and configurations of the valves and other assemblies in the production tubing. As such, this method generally requires special tools to be designed, fabricated, and operated for removing the plastic liner from the inside of each of these assemblies. This process also requires the use and transportation of large, specialized equipment for each operation. As mentioned above, the equipment is not readily available in many areas and it is contemplated that the equipment, when available, may not permit safe operations on pressure-containing conduits.

Another approach involves a method that requires placement or injection of a liquid coating between two pigs, or wiper plugs, and moving the wiper plugs at a pre-determined rate along the inner surface of the conduit over a desired distance. Liquid coating is located between the wiper plugs and is applied to the inner surface of the conduit between the wiper plugs as the wiper plugs move along the inner surface. This process is referred to as an "in-situ" coating because it permits the conduit to remain in place, or in its operational location, while the coating is applied.

While in-situ coating is used in various pipeline applications, it has not been successfully used in production tubular applications or many other applications due to various shortcomings. For example, in-situ coating methods require the use of a liquid coating material that will stay in a liquid

state for extended periods of time to avoid curing, or hardening, between the wiper plugs while the plugs move along the inner surface of the conduit. Additionally, the use of wiper plugs requires two openings in the conduit. The first opening is the insertion point and the second opening is the exit point. Therefore, the wiper plugs move along the inner surface from the insertion point to the exit point.

Generally, the liquid coating material in this method is either a single component liquid, or a multi-component liquid that is mixed prior to transmitting the liquid to the application site, i.e., the location along the inner surface of the conduit desired to be coated by the liquid coating material. In these prior attempts, the liquid cures prematurely and prevents the successful coating of the inner surface of the tubing. For example, extended time periods for transmission of the liquid coating material through the conduit and elevated temperatures at the application site have been determined to cause these liquid coating materials to cure prematurely.

Additionally, because the conditions, e.g., temperature, pressure, humidity, etc., may vary at different application sites along the inner surface of the conduit, the premixed liquid cannot be customized for the varying conditions at the application sites. This lack of flexibility has resulted in liquid coating compositions that either cure too quickly, or, in many cases, not at all. Additionally, this practice does not allow the chemical(s) or liquid component(s) to be tailored during the process and may not be used when the conduit is limited to a single opening. Therefore, in many instances, the inner surface of the tubing is not adequately coated by the single or multi-component liquid coating compositions currently employed.

Accordingly, prior to the development of the present invention, there has been no system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit and method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit, which: permits in-situ coating of production tubulars without having the liquid coating composition cure prematurely; permits coating of the inner surface of the production tubulars without having to extract old tubing and replace with new tubing; permits the application site to be more easily targeted around valves and other assemblies; decreases the amount of time production of oil and gas is interrupted; permits independent, or isolated, transmission of liquid liner components to the application site; and is less expensive than tubing replacement using new conventional tubing or tubing that is pre-coated

prior to installation in the well. Therefore, the art has sought a system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit and method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit which: permits in-situ coating of production tubulars without having the liquid coating composition cure prematurely; permits coating of the inner surface of the production tubulars without having to extract old tubing and replace with new tubing; permits the application site to be more easily targeted around valves and other assemblies; decreases the amount of time production of oil and gas is interrupted; permits independent, or isolated, transmission of liquid liner components to the application site; and is less expensive than tubing replacement using new tubing or tubing that is pre-coated prior to installation in the well.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

In accordance with the invention the foregoing advantages have been achieved through the present system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit comprising: a first reservoir having a first liquid liner component; a second reservoir having a second liquid liner component, the second liquid liner component being different from the first liquid liner component; a first liquid liner component transmission line in communication with the first reservoir; a second liquid liner component transmission line in communication with the second reservoir; and an applicator in communication with the first liquid liner component transmission line and the second liquid liner component transmission line.

A further feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the first and second reservoirs and first and second liquid liner component transmission lines may be in communication with a multi-port pump. Another feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the first and second liquid liner component transmission lines may be adjacent each other to form a control line. An additional feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the control line may include a power source line. Still another feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the power source line may be electric. A further

feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the power source line may be pneumatic. Another feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the control line may be coiled. An additional feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the control line may be maintained on a reel. Still another feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the applicator may be a directional spray nozzle. A further feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the applicator may be a centrifugal spray nozzle. Another feature of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the first and second liquid liner component transmission lines may be coiled.

In accordance with the invention the foregoing advantages have also been achieved through the present method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit, comprising the steps of: providing a conduit having an inner surface; transmitting a first liquid liner component to an application site disposed on the inner surface of the conduit; transmitting a second liquid liner component to the application site, the second liquid liner component being different from the first liquid liner component; mixing the first liquid liner component with the second liquid liner component at the application site to form a multi-component liquid liner composition; and applying the multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site.

A further feature of the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that a third liquid component liner component may be transmitted to the application site and mixed with the first and second liquid liner components to form the multi-component liquid liner composition applied to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site. Another feature of the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the multi-component liquid liner composition may include at least two additional liquid liner components that are transmitted to the application site and mixed with the first and second liquid liner components to form the multi-component liquid liner composition applied to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site. An additional feature of the method of

applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the conduit may be production tubulars and the application site may be disposed at least 200 feet below ground. Still another feature of the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the multi-component liquid liner composition may be applied to the inner surface of the conduit by centrifugal spraying.

In accordance with the invention the foregoing advantages have also been achieved through the present method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit, comprising the steps of: providing a conduit having an inner surface; transmitting a first liquid liner component to an application site disposed on the inner surface of the conduit; transmitting a second liquid liner component to the application site, the second liquid liner component being different from the first liquid liner component; applying the first liquid liner component to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site; and applying the second liquid liner component to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site thereby forming a multi-component liquid liner composition disposed on the inner surface of the conduit at the application site.

A further feature of the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that at least one additional liquid liner component may be transmitted to the application site and applied to the inner surface of the conduit to form the multi-component liquid liner composition disposed on the inner surface of the conduit at the application site. Another feature of the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the conduit may be production tubulars and the application site may be disposed at least 200 feet below. An additional feature of the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit is that the first and second liquid liner components may be applied to the inner surface of the conduit by centrifugal spraying.

The apparatus for applying multi-component liquid liner compositions to the inner surfaces of conduits and methods of applying multi-component liquid liner compositions to the inner surfaces of conduits have the advantages of: permitting in-situ coating of production tubulars without having the liquid coating composition cure prematurely; permitting coating of the inner surface of the production tubulars without having to extract old tubing and replace with new tubing; permitting the

application site to be more easily targeted around valves and other assemblies; decreasing the amount of time production of oil and gas is interrupted; permitting independent, or isolated, transmission of liquid liner components to the application site; and being less expensive than tubing replacement using new tubing or tubing that is pre-coated prior to installation in the well.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is side view of one specific embodiment of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit.

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FIG. 2 is a side view of the conduit and the applicator of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition shown in FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the control line of another specific embodiment of the system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition.

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While the invention will be described in connection with the preferred embodiment, it will be understood that it is not intended to limit the invention to that embodiment. On the contrary, it is intended to cover all alternatives, modifications, and equivalents, as may be included within the spirit and scope of the invention as defined by the appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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The invention is directed to an apparatus, or system, for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit. Multi-component liquid liner compositions are generally preferred, or required, under certain application conditions, including, but not limited, to high temperatures. If mixed before transmission, or delivery, to the application site, high temperatures inside the conduit can cause an accelerated reaction and curing of multi-component liquid liner compositions before they can be applied to the inner surface of the conduit. Therefore, one aspect of the present invention is directed to a system that isolates the individual liquid liner components of the multi-component liquid liner composition until just prior to the multi-component liquid liner composition being applied to the inner surface of the conduit.

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It is contemplated that isolation of liquid liner components may provide additional benefits in applications where intermittent operations are being performed. Isolation of the liquid liner

components can avoid premature reaction and hardening of the multi-component liquid liner composition while the pump is disengaged for prolonged periods of time. Additionally, isolation of the liquid liner components with multiple transmission lines permits changes in the multi-component liquid liner composition during the course of the application of the multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of the conduit, thereby allowing the multi-component liquid liner composition to be tailored to the specific application, and/or conditions at the application site. Moreover, isolating individual liquid liner components allows for base components and catalysts or accelerators to be used as liquid liner components and mixed in a more controlled manner at the point of application, thereby avoiding premature curing or thickening of the multi-component liquid liner composition during application of the multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of the conduit.

Referring now to FIGS. 1-3, broadly, the system 20 includes first reservoir 30, first liquid liner component transmission line 31 in communication with first reservoir 30, second reservoir 40, second liquid liner component transmission line 41 in communication with second reservoir 40, third reservoir 50, and third liquid liner component transmission line 51 in communication with third reservoir 50. First reservoir 30 includes first liquid liner component 35, second reservoir includes second liquid liner component 45, and third reservoir includes third liquid liner component 55. Generally, first liquid liner component 35, second liquid liner component 45, and third liquid liner component 55 are different chemicals that when mixed or combined cure, or harden, to form a solid compound or coating, i.e., the multi-component liquid liner composition 93, such as a resin, thereby forming a liner, or coating, at application site 95 along inner surface 82 of conduit 80.

It is to be understood that first liquid liner component 35, second liquid liner component 45, and third liquid liner component 55 all do not have to be different from each other provided at least two of the liquid liner components are different from each other. First liquid liner component 35, second liquid liner component 45, and third liquid liner component 55 are readily known to persons skilled in art. Additionally, persons of ordinary skill in the art can easily formulate multi-component liquid liner compositions 93 as desired or necessary due to conditions at the application site 95 to facilitate effective coating of inner surface 82 of conduit 80. In one preferred embodiment, first liquid liner component 35 is a base material, or epoxy resin such as Sovachem Tank Liner 8-Series

2 Pack Chemical Resistant Epoxy Tank Lining sold and distributed by Jotun Paints, Inc. of Norway with distributors in Houston, Texas and second liquid liner component 45 is a catalyst or harder such as 8T1 catalyst sold by Jotun Paints, Inc. First liquid liner component 35 and second liquid liner component 45 are preferably present in a ratio of 6 to 1 based upon volume. In this embodiment, third liquid liner component 55 is not required. Additionally, the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 formed in this embodiment provides both corrosion and wear resistance at temperatures up to 350°F.

The speed at which the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 solidifies is dependent upon numerous conditions, such as the humidity, the temperature, the pressure, etc. at application site 95. Because many of these conditions vary from application site to application site along the inner surface, system 20 keeps first liquid liner component 35 separate from second liquid liner component 45 and third liquid liner component 55 until just seconds before the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 is to be applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80. Therefore, a multi-component liquid liner composition 93 can be tailored to the conditions at the application site 95.

As shown in FIGS. 1-3, first liquid liner component transmission line 31, second liquid liner component transmission line 41, and third liquid liner component transmission line 51 are preferably adjacent to each other to form integrated line, or control line, 60. In this arrangement liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 are maintained in one line and may be easily managed by the operator of the system 20.

In a preferred embodiment, liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 are braided, or twisted or coiled, with each other to form control line 60. In another preferred embodiment, control line 60 includes an outer jacket or sheath 49 (FIG. 3) that protects control line 60 from damage and provides the control line 60 a uniform circular cross-section, or tubular shape. Additionally, control line 60 is preferably coiled, thereby permitting control line 60 to be disposed on a reel 70. Therefore, because control line 60 can be spooled onto reel 70, system 20 can be easily transported to remote locations. Control line 60 can then be unspooled and ran into a well bore through the use of conventional coiled tubing equipment, including the use of conventional control vehicles having facilities and equipment for operating and monitoring system 20. Moreover,

control line 60 having outer jacket 49 provides for better well control capability during the operation since conventional strippers and blowout preventers can seal off tubular-shaped lines.

Liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 may have any inner diameter and outer diameter desired or necessary to effectively transmit, or deliver, liquid liner components 35, 45, 55 to application site 95. Preferably, liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 have small inner and outer diameters, i.e., less than .75 inch and less than 1.0 inch, respectively. Therefore, liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 can be easily twisted, or coiled, together and ran in and out of a well bore as a single control line 60.

Still referring to FIGS. 1-3, liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 are in communication with applicator 90. Applicator 90 may include mixing cup 91 and spray head 92. Mixing cup 91 may include an agitator (not shown) or other mixing apparatus to facilitate mixing liquid liner components 35, 45, 55 to form multi-component liquid liner composition 93.

Spray head 92 may be any device known to persons skilled in the art that facilitates the dispersion of the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 onto inner surface 82 of conduit 80 to sufficiently coat inner surface 82. Spray head 92 may include one or more ports 94 through which multi-component liquid liner composition 93 is expelled, e.g., sprayed, extruded, centrifugally dispersed, from applicator 90. Each port 94 may provide directional spraying, i.e., one direction, or radial spraying, i.e., multiple directions. Preferably, each port 94 provides radial spraying.

Additionally, applicator 90 may include a centralizer 99 to assist in maintaining a uniform coverage of multi-component liquid liner composition 93 being applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 by helping to maintain spray head 92 in the center of conduit 80. It is to be understood that centralizer 99 may be an integral part of applicator 90; may be an additional device attached to applicator 90; may be disposed above or below spray head 92; and may be separate from spray head 92, e.g., attached to control line 60.

Applicator 90 may be any mechanical, electrical, pneumatic, or hydraulic device known to persons ordinarily skilled in the art that permits a liquid to be applied to a surface without contacting the surface. In the embodiments in which the applicator is electrical, pneumatic, or hydraulic, control line 60 includes a power source line 48 in communication with applicator 90 and a power source 47 (FIG. 1). For example, electric applicators require an electrical cable as power source line

48 in communication with the applicator 90 and an electric generator (power source 47). Likewise, pneumatic and hydraulic applicators 90 require a pneumatic line and a hydraulic fluid line, respectively, as power source line 48 in communication with the applicator 90 and a pneumatic compressor and a hydraulic fluid tank/hydraulic pump, respectively, as power source 47. Power source line 48 is preferably a pneumatic line and power source 47 is preferably a pneumatic compressor.

Additionally, power source line 48 is preferably coiled, or twisted, with liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 to form control line 60, and thus, is protected by outer jacket 49. As shown in FIG. 3, control line 60 includes three spirally twisted liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 and power source line 48.

It is noted that a second power source line 48 may be desired or necessary to facilitate operation of applicator 90. For example, in the embodiment in which power source line 48 is a hydraulic line, a second power source line, also a hydraulic line, in communication with power source 47 is necessary for proper function of a hydraulic applicator 90.

In a preferred embodiment, liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 are in communication with a multi-port chemical, or fluid, metering pump 65. Multi-port pump 65 facilitates the delivery of liquid liner components 35, 45, 55 from reservoirs 30, 40, 50, through liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 to applicator 90. While it is contemplated that any multi-port pump 65 may be included in system 20, multi-port pump 65 should keep at least two of the liquid liner components separate to facilitate proper delivery, or transmission, of the liquid liner components to applicator 90 without the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 curing prematurely. Further, multi-port pump 65 preferably pumps pre-determined amounts of at least two liquid liner components up to about 3,000 psi to about 5,000 psi.

The invention is also directed to methods of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit through the use of multiple, individual small diameter liquid liner component transmission lines. The methods may be used to restore the integrity of old corroded or eroded conduits providing longer operational life and avoiding costly removal and replacement. The methods of the invention may also be used to protect new, already installed conduits from corrosion or erosion due to liquids or solids transported through them.

Conduits of various lengths can be internally coated, or treated, for a wide range of applications, including oil and gas production tubing, i.e., well bore tubing, petroleum products pipelines, water lines, sewer lines, and other city utilities, whether the conduit is disposed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. In a surprisingly advantageous application, the conduit is a vertically (FIG. 2) or diagonally disposed production tubular having an outer surface 81 and an inner surface 82. Inner surface 82 may be coated with a multi-component liquid liner composition 93 in accordance with the methods of the invention at application sites 95 located at distances greater than 200 feet from the opening 83 of the conduit 80. As shown in FIGS. 1-2, conduit 80 is a production tubular vertically disposed in ground 100.

The methods of the invention permit a continuous or intermittent flow of liquid liner components 35, 45, 55 to be pumped down liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 and sprayed, extruded, or centrifugally applied in a radial pattern onto inner surface 82 of conduit 80. Multi-component liquid liner composition 93 may be applied over the entire length of inner surface 82 of conduit 80 or in selected, or predetermined, areas, e.g., application site 95. Additionally, applicator 90 may be moved along inner surface 82 of conduit 80 in the direction of arrows 96, 97 (FIG. 2) to apply multi-component liquid liner composition 93 to larger areas of inner surface 82.

Intermittent coating of inner surface 82 of conduit 80 with multi-component liquid liner composition 93 may be controlled by engaging and disengaging multi-port pump 65 which is used to transmit liquid liner components 35, 45, 55 to applicator 90. Multi-port pump 65 is preferably a positive displacement pump that provides an individually controlled or metered amount of each liquid liner component 35, 45, 55 being transmitted through liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51. In a preferred embodiment, liquid liner components 35, 45, 55 are mixed in mixing cup 91 located at, or within (FIG. 2) applicator 90 and applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 using spray head 92.

The method of applying multi-component liquid liner compositions may be interrupted or spray patterns changed by disengaging multi-port pump 65 and by using surface or downhole valves in control line 60, or in liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51, operated by electric, hydraulic, pneumatic, or mechanical actuators. The rate at which multi-component liquid liner composition 93 is applied and thickness at which multi-component liquid liner composition 63 is

applied can be adjusted without having to remove control line 60, and/or liquid liner transmission lines 31, 41, 51, and spray head 92 from conduit 80 to make manual adjustments. Intermittent coating can also be used to avoid coating areas along inner surface 82 that may be adversely affected by multi-component liquid liner composition 93, such as gas lift valves and nipple profiles.

5 As mentioned above, electrical solenoid actuators for downhole control valves would require the use of a power source line 48, e.g., an electric cable, that can be twisted together with the liquid liner component transmission lines 31, 41, 51 (FIG. 3). If desirable, and cost effective, the electrical cable may also be used to operate downhole tools and record information such as location of conduit couplings, temperature in conduit 80, multi-component liquid liner composition 93 coating
10 thickness, depth and pressure measurements, and other data.

In one embodiment of the invention, the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition 93 to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 includes the steps of transmitting first liquid liner component 35 to application site 95 disposed on inner surface 82 of conduit 80. Second liquid liner component 45 is then transmitted to application site 95 and mixed with first liquid liner component 35 at application site 95 to form a multi-component liquid liner composition 93. Multi-component liquid liner composition 93 is applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 at application site 95, thereby coating inner surface 82 of conduit 80.
15

It is to be understood that the phrase “at application site” is to be broadly construed to include any position located within conduit 80 near or in close proximity to the application site 95. As shown in FIG. 2, application site 95 is identified as being the area around applicator 90.
20

As discussed above, multi-component liquid liner composition 93 may be applied to inner surface 82 using applicator 90. Applicator 90 may spray, extrude, or centrifugally apply multi-component liquid liner composition 93 to inner surface 82. Additionally, applicator 90 may include a spray head 92 that provides directional spraying, i.e., the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 is applied in only one direction from one port 94 located on spray head 92 (although spray head 92 may include multiple ports 94, wherein each port 94 is oriented to spray in a different, fixed, direction), or radially spraying, i.e., the multi-component liquid liner composition 93 is applied in multiple directions from each of one or more ports 94 located on spray head 92.
25

Liquid liner components 35, 45 may be transmitted to application site 95 through liquid liner component transmission lines 31 and 41 respectively. Moreover, liquid liner components 35, 45 may be transmitted to application site 95 by pumping liquid liner components 35, 45 from reservoirs 30 and 40 respectively, and through liquid liner component transmission lines 31 and 41 respectively.

Additional liquid liner components, e.g., 55 discussed above, may also be transmitted to application site 95 and mixed with the other liquid liner components, i.e., 35, 45, to form multi-component liquid liner composition 93 that is applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 at application site 95.

In another specific embodiment, the method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition 93 to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 includes the steps of transmitting first liquid liner component 35 to application site 95 disposed on inner surface 82 of conduit 80 and applying first liquid liner component 35 to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 at application site 95. Second liquid liner component 45 is then transmitted to application site 95 and applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 at application site 95, thereby forming multi-component liquid liner composition 93 disposed on inner surface 82 of conduit 80 at application site 95.

Additional liquid liner components, e.g., 55 discussed above, may also be transmitted to application site 95 and applied to inner surface 82 of conduit 80 at application site 95 to form multi-component liquid liner composition 93 at application site 95.

While one of the specific embodiments discussed above includes three reservoirs and three liquid liner component transmission lines, it is to be understood that the system may include any number of reservoirs and liquid liner component transmission lines as desired or necessary to facilitate the application of a multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of a conduit. For example, a specific multi-component liquid liner composition that is desired by the operator of the system because of conditions, e.g., temperature, humidity, pressure, etc., at the application site may include as few as two different liquid liner components, or as many as four or more different liquid liner components. In these embodiments, a number of reservoirs and liquid liner component transmission lines will be determined by the operator based upon the specific liquid liner components selected by the operator. For example, if four liquid liner components are selected, and all four of the liquid liner components must be kept separated for as long as possible before

being combined to form the multi-component liquid liner composition and applied to the inner surface of the conduit, then four reservoirs and four liquid liner component transmission lines are necessary.

Alternatively, if only three of the four liquid liner components must be kept separate, i.e., two of the four liquid liner components may be mixed or combined in one reservoir prior to transmitting them to the application site on the inner surface of the conduit, then only three reservoirs and three liquid liner component transmission lines are necessary. The ability to select the number of reservoirs and liquid liner component transmission lines is within the knowledge of a person ordinarily skilled in the art of formulating multi-component liquid composition liners.

Additionally, any of the liquid liner components may be identical to one another provided at least two of the liquid liner components are different, and the two different liquid liner components are stored in separate reservoirs and transmitted to the application site through separate liquid liner component transmission lines.

It is to be understood that the invention is not limited to the exact details of construction, operation, exact materials, or embodiments shown and described, as obvious modifications and equivalents will be apparent to one skilled in the art. Accordingly, the invention is therefore to be limited only by the scope of the appended claims.

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit comprising:
 - a first reservoir having a first liquid liner component;
 - a second reservoir having a second liquid liner component, the second liquid liner component being different from the first liquid liner component;
 - a first liquid liner component transmission line in communication with the first reservoir;
 - a second liquid liner component transmission line in communication with the second reservoir; and
 - an applicator in communication with the first liquid liner component transmission line and the second liquid liner component transmission line.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second reservoirs and first and second liquid liner component transmission lines are in communication with a multi-port pump.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second liquid liner component transmission lines are adjacent each other to form a control line.
4. The system of claim 3, wherein the control line includes a power source line.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the power source line is electric.
6. The system of claim 4, wherein the power source line is pneumatic.
7. The system of claim 3, wherein the control line is coiled.
8. The system of claim 3, wherein the control line is maintained on a reel.

9. The system of claim 1, wherein the applicator is a directional spray nozzle.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein the applicator is a centrifugal spray nozzle.

11. The system of claim 1, wherein the first and second liquid liner component transmission lines are coiled.

12. A method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit, comprising the steps of:

providing a conduit having an inner surface;

transmitting a first liquid liner component to an application site disposed on the inner surface of the conduit;

transmitting a second liquid liner component to the application site, the second liquid liner component being different from the first liquid liner component;

mixing the first liquid liner component with the second liquid liner component at the application site to form a multi-component liquid liner composition; and

applying the multi-component liquid liner composition to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein a third liquid component liner component is transmitted to the application site and mixed with the first and second liquid liner components to form the multi-component liquid liner composition applied to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein the multi-component liquid liner composition includes at least two additional liquid liner components that are transmitted to the application site and mixed with the first and second liquid liner components to form the multi-component liquid liner composition applied to the inner surface of the conduit at the application site.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the conduit is a production tubular and the application site
2 is disposed at least 200 feet below ground.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the multi-component liquid liner composition is applied
2 to the inner surface of the conduit by centrifugal spraying.

1 17. A method of applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a
2 conduit, comprising the steps of:

3 providing a conduit having an inner surface;

4 transmitting a first liquid liner component to an application site disposed on the inner surface
5 of the conduit;

6 transmitting a second liquid liner component to the application site, the second liquid liner
7 component being different from the first liquid liner component;

8 applying the first liquid liner component to the inner surface of the conduit at the application
9 site; and

10 applying the second liquid liner component to the inner surface of the conduit at the
11 application site thereby forming a multi-component liquid liner composition disposed on the inner
12 surface of the conduit at the application site.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein at least one additional liquid liner component is transmitted
2 to the application site and applied to the inner surface of the conduit to form the multi-component
3 liquid liner composition disposed on the inner surface of the conduit at the application site.

1 19. The method of claim 12, wherein the conduit is a production tubular and the application site
2 is disposed at least 200 feet below ground.

1 20. The method of claim 17, wherein the first and second liquid liner components are applied to
2 the inner surface of the conduit by centrifugal spraying.

ABSTRACT

The invention is directed to an apparatus, or system, for applying a multi-component liquid liner composition to an inner surface of a conduit. The system comprises a first reservoir having a first liquid liner component; a second reservoir having a second liquid liner component, the second liquid liner component being different from the first liquid liner component; a first liquid liner component transmission line in communication with the first reservoir; a second liquid liner component transmission line in communication with the second reservoir; and an applicator in communication with the first and second liquid liner component transmission lines. Methods of applying multi-component liquid liner compositions to the inner surface of conduits are also disclosed.

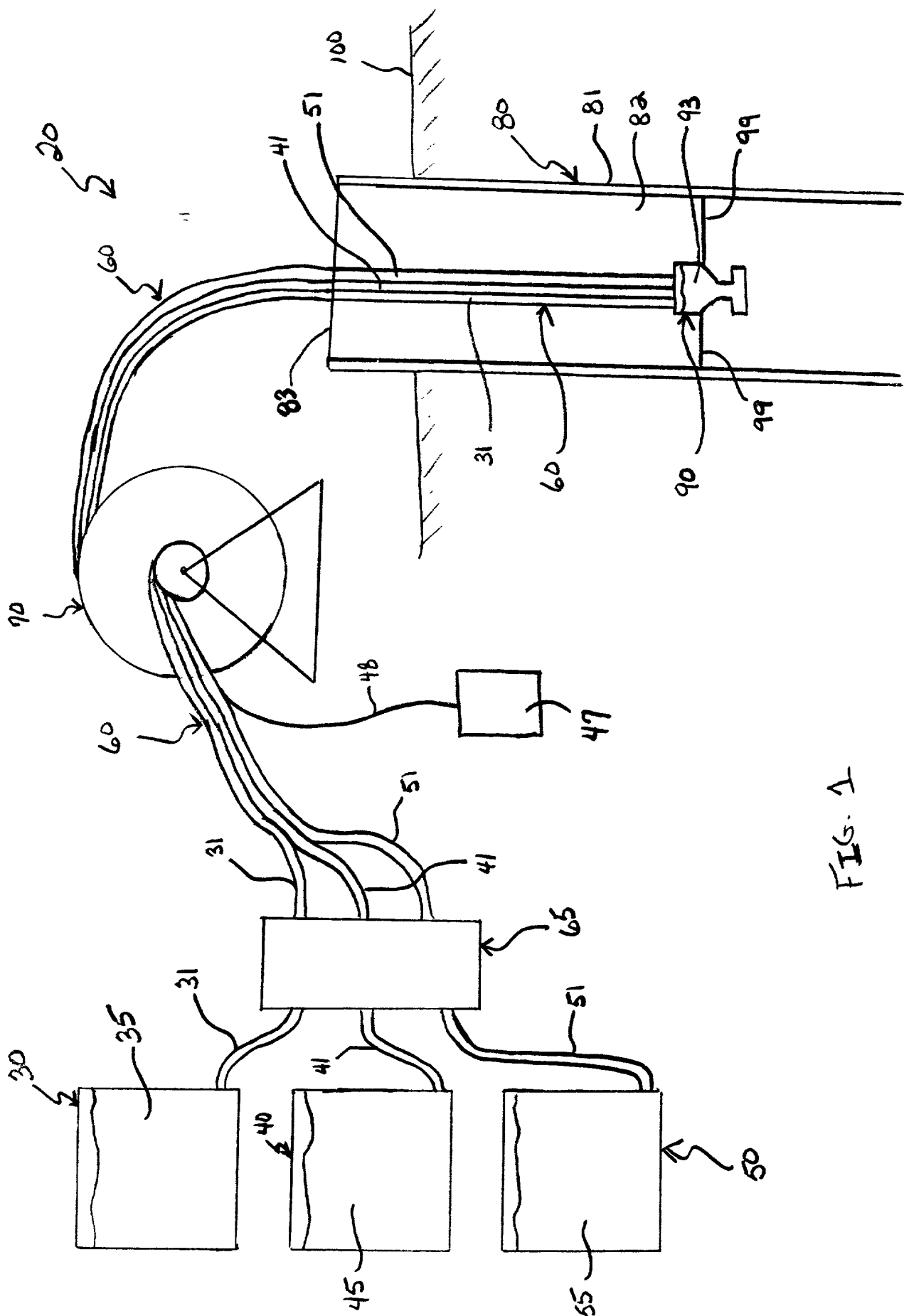


Fig. 1

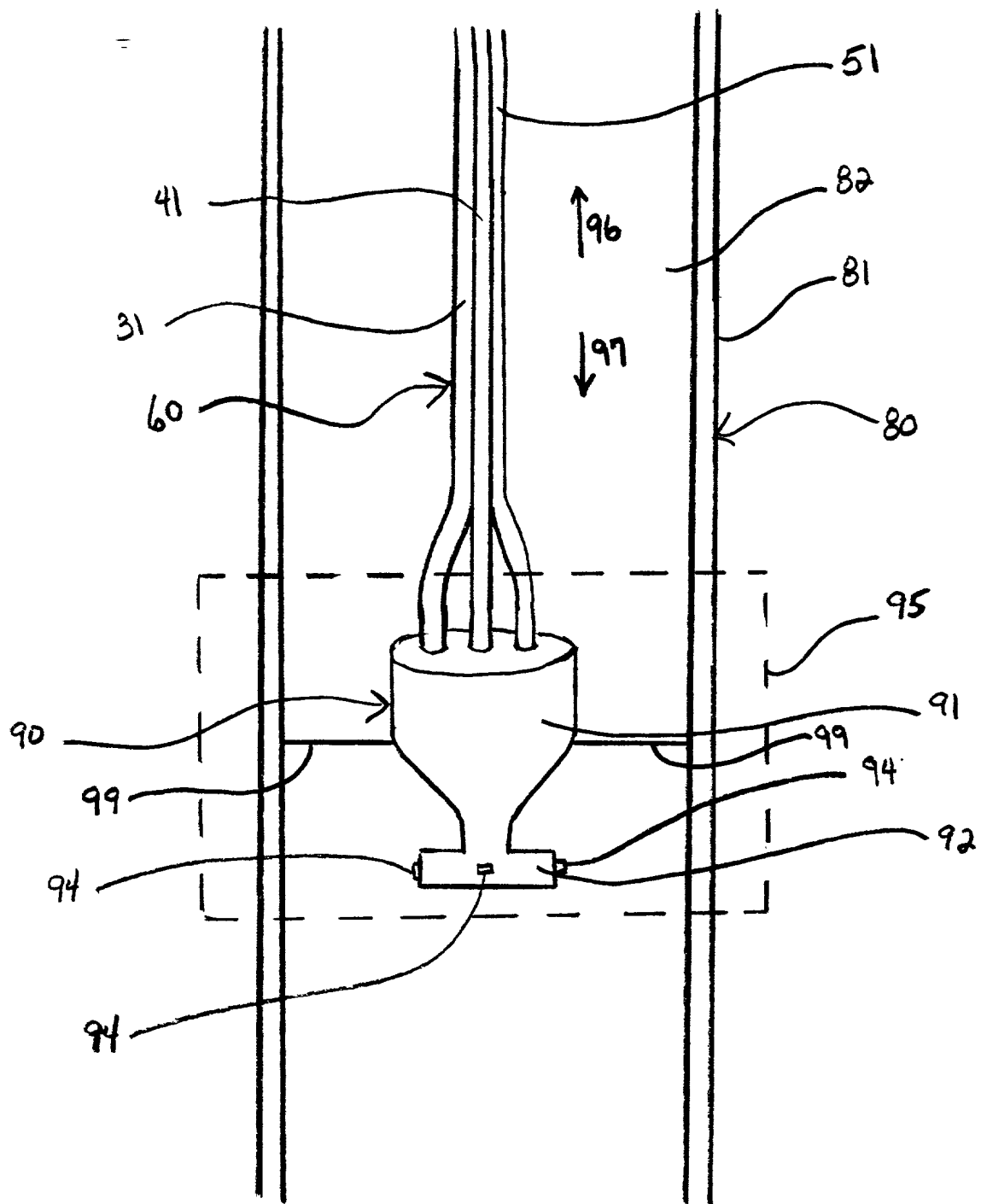


FIG. 2

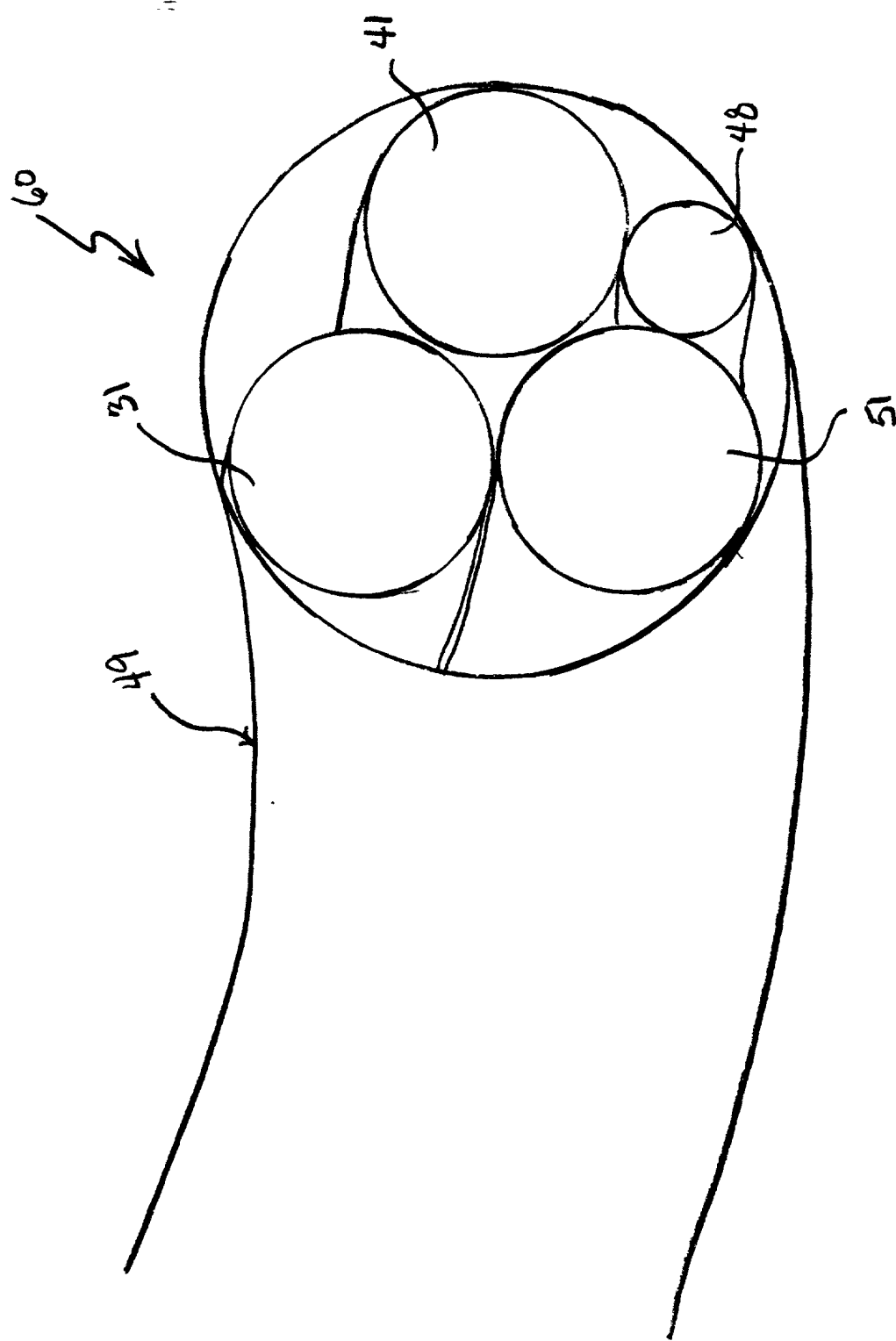


FIG. 3

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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

☒ Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing OR ☐ Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number

First Named Inventor

Notes

COMPLETE IF KNOWN

Application Number

Filing Date

Group Art Unit

Examiner Name

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**Apparatus for Applying Multi-component Liquid Liner Compositions
to the Inner Surface of Conduits and Methods of Applying Same**

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

☒ is attached hereto

OR

☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY)

as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number

and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY)

(if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached?	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	YES	NO
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

☐ Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

Application Number(s)	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Additional provisional application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto.

[Page 1 of 2]

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR:

☐ A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor

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or Surname **NOLES, JR.**

Inventor's
Signature

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Country

Citizenship

Mailing Address

Mailing Address

City

State

ZIP

Country

☐ Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Jerry W. Noles, Jr.)
Serial No.:) Group Art Unit:
Filed: Herewith) Examiner:
For: APPARATUS FOR APPLYING)
MULTI- COMPONENT LIQUID LINER)
COMPOSITIONS TO THE INNER)
SURFACE OF CONDUITS AND)
METHODS OF APPLYING SAME)

ELECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 3.71 and 3.73
AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. § 1.8

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Date

Signature

The undersigned, being Assignee of record of the entire interest in the above-identified Application by virtue of an Assignment as set forth below, hereby elects, under 37 C.F.R. § 3.71, to prosecute the Application to the exclusion of the inventors.

The Assignee hereby revokes any previous Powers of Attorney and appoints Anthony F. Matheny, Reg. No. 43,778, an attorney with the law firm of ANDREWS & KURTH L.L.P., as its attorney so long as he remains with such law firm, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute the Application, to make alterations and amendments therein, to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith, to receive any Letters Patent, and for one year after issuance of such Letters Patent to file any request for a certificate of correction that may be deemed appropriate.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §3.73, the undersigned has reviewed the evidentiary documents, specifically the Assignment to Advanced Coiled Tubing, Inc. referenced below, and certifies that to the best of my knowledge and belief, title remains in the name of the Assignee.

Please direct all communications as follows:

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Advanced Coiled Tubing, Inc.

Date: Nov. 28, 2000

By: Larry Kuhlman
Larry Kuhlman
Executive Vice President

ASSIGNMENT:

☒ Enclosed for recording
☐ Previously recorded
Date: _____
Reel: _____
Frame: _____